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Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Seventy-first year

Identical letters dated 18 February 2016 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

I am compelled to write to you to draw your attention to and officially document the brutal crimes that continue to be perpetrated by Israel, the occupying Power, against the defenceless Palestinian civilian population in the Occupied State of Palestine, including East Jerusalem. Week after week, these letters are written in the hope that the atrocities mentioned will evoke a responsible, action-oriented response from the international community. This week is no different as we continue to call attention to these egregious Israeli violations and crimes against our people and continue to call for protection and measures to hold Israel accountable for its crimes, including war crimes against our people.

First, in follow-up to our previous letter, dated 11 February, I must recall the situation of the Palestinian journalist, Mohammed Al-Qiq, age 33, who is now in the 86th day of a hunger strike in protest against his administrative detention by Israel, the occupying Power, without charge. His plight remains grave, as his health continues to deteriorate sharply, and he is facing imminent death. We call on the international community to take all measures to compel the occupying Power to release Mr. Al-Qiq and to end its illegal use of administrative detention, by which the occupying Power is holding more than 530 Palestinians without charge or trial for periods of up to six months, renewable indefinitely, among the more than 6,000 Palestinian civilians it is illegally incarcerating and abusing in its jails. In this regard, the ongoing daily arrest raids by the Israeli occupying forces continue to add more and more innocent Palestinian civilians, including children and youth, to the ranks of those being brutally imprisoned and detained by the occupying Power.

Today, I must also again highlight that incitement by high-ranking Israeli officials against the entire Palestinian population continues unabated and continues to fuel intolerance and hate among the Israeli public. On Tuesday, 16 February, during an Israeli Knesset meeting, the Israeli Prime Minister declared that

Palestinian "terror" came from a "culture of death" among Palestinian society. Such deplorable statements by the occupying Power, which dehumanizes the Palestinian people under its occupation, have fostered a culture of hatred and the demeaning of Palestinian lives that has allowed Israeli occupying forces to shoot and kill Palestinian civilians, including children, execution-style, in broad daylight, without any concern for accountability and without conscience.

Just one of the latest tragic examples of this prevalent disregard for Palestinian life is the shooting that critically injured Yasmin Rashad Al-Zarou Al-Tamimi, age 21, in Al-Khalil on Sunday, 14 February 2016. Yasmin and her sister had crossed an Israeli military checkpoint, and after they had walked a few metres past the checkpoint, Israeli occupying forces deliberately fired at Yasmin. Videos surfaced of her lying on the ground bleeding from multiple gunshots. The shooting of Yasmin occurred hours after occupying forces had shot and killed a Palestinian boy, Na'eem Ahmad Youssef Safi, age 17, at an Israeli checkpoint north of Bethlehem, along with two other Palestinian boys, Nehad Ra'ed Waked, age 15, and Fo'ad Marwan Waked, age 15, who were shot and killed by occupying forces near the village of Al-Araqa, west of Jenin.

The killings of these young Palestinians, among so many who have recently had their lives so callously taken and who lived their entire lives under this brutal occupation, are further proof of the occupying Power's complete disregard for the sanctity of Palestinian life. Clearly, the occupying Power believes that as long as it can falsely accuse Palestinians of trying to "harm" an Israeli soldier — fully armed with the latest and most lethal military weaponry, along with the most sophisticated protective gear and armoured vehicles, and imposing the occupation in the most inhumane and humiliating ways — their crimes will not be questioned, nor will they ever be held accountable or punished for the clearly established policy of "shooting to kill" Palestinians. The fact remains that the international community's inaction has helped to foster, rather than to curb, this appalling culture of impunity that prevails throughout the ranks of the Israeli occupying forces, fully backed by the Israeli Government in word and deed, which we continue to witness on a daily and shocking basis.

Below are just some of the innumerable crimes perpetrated by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in the period since our previous letter to you:

11 February 2016:

- Israeli occupying forces shot and injured three Palestinians during a raid into Beit Duqqu village, north-west of Jerusalem.

13 February 2016:

- Israeli naval boats launched heavy machine gun fire on Palestinian fishermen offshore north of the blockaded Gaza Strip.

14 February 2016:

- Occupying forces shot and killed Na'eem Ahmad Youssef Safi (age 17) at a checkpoint east of Bethlehem.
- Occupying forces fatally shot Nehad Ra'ed Waked (age 15) and Fo'ad Marwan Waked (age 15) near the village of Al-Araqa, west of Jenin.

- A 12-year-old student was run over by an Israeli military jeep during clashes that erupted with demonstrating students at the entrance of Al-Arroub refugee camp, north of Al-Khalil.
- Israeli occupying forces detained seven Palestinians from across the West Bank.
- Occupying forces shot and killed a Palestinian girl, Kalzar Mohammed Al-Uweiwi (age 18) at the entrance of Bab Al-Khan in Al-Sahla neighbourhood, near Al-Ibrahimi Mosque in Al-Khalil.
- Yasmin Rashad Al-Zarou Al-Tamimi (age 21) was seriously injured after being shot by Israeli occupying forces near Al-Ibrahimi Mosque in Al-Khalil.
- Occupying forces shot and killed two Palestinian youths, Mansour Yasser Shawamreh (age 20) and Omar Mohammed Amr (age 20), at Bab Al-Amoud, in Occupied East Jerusalem.

15 February 2016:

- Israeli occupying forces demolished 20 Palestinian dwellings in Ein Al-Rushrash, a locality to the south-east of Duma village, south of Nablus.
- Occupying forces detained 22 Palestinians from Ramallah, Al-Bireh and Nablus in the West Bank.
- 22 Palestinians were injured after occupying forces stormed Al-Amaari refugee camp, Ramallah.

16 February 2016:

- Israeli occupying forces, using live fire, shot and injured Ahmad Bilal Zaytoon (age 24) in the city of Nablus.
- Israeli settlers under the protection of occupying forces entered Al-Aqsa Mosque compound in Occupied East Jerusalem, inflaming tensions.
- Occupying forces detained nine Palestinians during predawn raids across the West Bank.

17 February 2016:

- Occupying forces demolished several agricultural and industrial structures in Al-Issawiya, on the outskirts of Occupied East Jerusalem, to establish a national park to serve illegal Israeli settlers.
- Israeli gunboats opened fire on Palestinian fishermen offshore from the Gaza Strip.
- Occupying forces destroyed hundreds of dunums of agricultural crops near Yatta, south of Al-Khalil.
- Occupying forces detained 20 Palestinians, including three children, in raids in the West Bank.

Surely, the long list of crimes mentioned above serves as further evidence that the failure to enact consequences for Israel's violations and grave breaches of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, has clearly resulted in the loss of more and more Palestinian lives, including children. We thus reiterate

our urgent appeal to the Security Council to not only discuss but to act forthwith to uphold its Charter duties and take the necessary action to protect the Palestinian civilian population and to bring this illegal Israeli aggression and occupation in all of its manifestations to an end, in line with the relevant provisions and principles of international law and the countless relevant United Nations resolutions, including of the Security Council.

The international community cannot continue to turn a blind eye to this injustice and cannot justify continued inaction by the Council on this matter that is clearly within its purview, has been on the United Nations agenda since its inception, constitutes a threat to international peace and security and has already destroyed so many lives across multiple generations and caused innumerable tragedies and crises. The time to act, with responsibility and conscience, is long overdue and of utmost urgency if we are to avert the complete destabilization of the situation and the closure of the minute window for peace that remains, and if we are to provide hope to the Palestinian people that their long struggle for the realization of their rights and legitimate national aspirations, including for independence, will be fulfilled and will provide future generations of Palestinians and Israelis with the peace, security and coexistence they seek.

The present letter is in follow-up to our 574 previous letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 11 February 2016 (A/ES-10/711-S/2016/135) constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations

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Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Seventy-first year

Identical letters dated 26 February 2016 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

It is with great urgency that we continue to write to you regarding the deteriorating political, humanitarian, security and socioeconomic situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, due to the ongoing illegal policies and practices of Israel, the occupying Power.

In this regard, I once again draw your attention to the arbitrary detention of Palestinian journalist Mohammed Al-Qiq, age 33, who is now in the ninety-fourth day of a hunger strike in protest against his administrative detention by Israel, the occupying Power, without charge. Doctors who are observing the health of Mr. Al-Qiq are anticipating his death at any moment, as they have reported that his body has now collapsed and that he is unable to speak. It must be recalled that Mr. Al-Qiq is one of 530 Palestinians who continue to be held without charge or trial in an Israeli prison or detention centre, and it should be noted that this number is just a fraction of the total number of more than 6,000 Palestinians who are currently incarcerated by the occupying Power. Today, media reports have emerged that an agreement has been reached to put an end to Mr. Al-Qiq's administrative detention. In this regard, we call on the international community to intervene and to call on the occupying Power to immediately release Mr. Al-Qiq, as well as the other Palestinian prisoners and detainees, including those who continue to be held without charge or trial.

On another front, civilian casualties continue to rise and fear and tensions are mounting as a result of the continued violent Israeli criminal actions being committed against the Palestinian people with complete and utter impunity. It is in this connection that we report to you that the Palestinian Ministry of Health has documented that since the beginning of October 2015, the Israeli occupying forces have killed at least 180 Palestinians, many of them children, and have injured more than 15,200 Palestinians, many of whom will have to live the rest of their lives with indescribable trauma, as well as permanent disabilities.

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Please recycle

Below are just some of the innumerable crimes perpetrated by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in the period since our previous letter to you:

18 February 2016:

- Israeli occupying forces detained three Palestinians in the West Bank.
- Two Palestinian children, Ayham Bassam Ibrahim Subih (age 14), and Omar Salim Rimawi (age 14) were shot and critically injured by occupying forces north-west of Jerusalem.

19 February 2016:

- Khaled Taqatqa (age 21) was shot dead by Israeli occupying forces in the Bethlehem village of Beit Fajjar.
- Mohammed Abu Khalaf (age 20) was shot dead by occupying forces outside Damascus Gate in Jerusalem's Old City.
- Abed Raed Abdullah Hamad was shot dead by Israeli occupying forces in the village of Silwad, near Ramallah.

20 February 2016:

- Israeli occupying forces detained a Palestinian child, Karam Atef Qasas (age 13), near Al-Ibrahmi Mosque in Al-Khalil, and summoned a youth from the Ramallah area for forced interrogation.

21 February 2016:

- A Palestinian minor was shot and injured by Israeli occupying forces before having been detained near the illegal Israeli settlement of "Kiryat Arba", to the east of Al-Khalil.
- Occupying forces detained 17 Palestinians from across the West Bank.
- Qusai Abu Ar-rub (age 17) was shot and killed by occupying forces near "Beta junction", to the south of Nablus.
- Three Palestinians were physically assaulted by occupying forces prior to and during their illegal detention at "Al-Maskobyeh" Israeli detention centre in northern Jerusalem.
- Israeli occupying forces shot live fire at Palestinian farmers to the south-east of Gaza city.

22 February 2016:

- A number of Palestinian teenagers were injured by rubber-coated steel bullets during clashes with Israeli occupying forces in the town of Qabatiya, south of Jenin.
- Occupying forces detained 20 Palestinians from across the West Bank.
- Occupying forces closed all roads leading to the town of Qabatiya, south of Jenin.
- Occupying forces served Palestinians with so-called notices to demolish three residential structures, two tents and three sheep barns in the villages of Tabban and Fakheit in Masafer Yatta, south of Al-Khalil.

23 February 2016:

- At least three Palestinians were injured by rubber-coated steel bullets, while dozens of others were suffocated by tear gas fired by Israeli occupying forces during clashes in the blockaded town of Qabatiya, south of Jenin.
- Occupying forces detained 30 Palestinians, including a 50-year-old blind man, during military raids across the West Bank.
- An elderly Palestinian woman, Zainab Rashida (age 60), was killed and her daughter, Fatima Abdul Yassin (age 30), was wounded when they were hit by a car driven by an Israeli settler in Jericho.

24 February 2016:

- Occupying forces served the families of three Palestinian teenagers who had been recently shot dead by occupying forces with demolition orders to their homes located in the town of Qabatiya, south of Jenin.
- Israeli naval boats opened machine gun fire on Palestinian fishermen who were sailing within the six-nautical-mile fishing zone offshore from Gaza.
- Occupying forces detained at least 17 Palestinians and summoned another during raids across the West Bank, mostly in Al-Khalil and Ramallah.
- Israeli occupying forces shot and moderately injured a Palestinian youth near the illegal "Gush Etzion" settlement bloc on the Al-Khalil-Bethlehem road.

25 February 2016:

- Israeli occupying forces detained 33 Palestinians during raids into several West Bank districts.
- Israeli occupying forces stormed and took measurements of the family house of Mamdouh Amro in the town of Dura, south of Al-Khalil, in preparation for planned demolition.
- Israeli bulldozers razed Palestinian agricultural structures in the town of Ni'lin, north-west of Ramallah.
- A group of aggressive settlers attacked Palestinians in Salaymeh neighbourhood, in the Old City of Al-Khalil.

26 February 2016:

- Israeli naval boats opened fire on Palestinian fishing boats off the coast of the southern Gaza Strip.
- A Palestinian was shot dead by Israeli occupying forces near the illegal settlement of "Beit El", north of Ramallah.

We wish to also bring to your attention that on Sunday, 21 February 2016, Israeli occupying forces, accompanied by 30 vehicles and bulldozers, demolished a Bedouin school for children in the Abu Al-Nuwaar community, near the town of Al-Eizariya in the occupied West Bank. It should be noted that this elementary school, which was funded by the European Union, was the sole school in the area, comprising six classrooms for first- and second-graders. Prior to demolishing the elementary school, occupying forces seized all its contents.

Unfortunately, this illegal practice of demolitions by the occupying Power is on the rise, as the number of Palestinians displaced thus far in 2016 is already equivalent to over half of the total number displaced in all of 2015. In this regard, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs has documented that, between 1 January and 15 February 2016, 283 Palestinian homes and other structures have been destroyed, dismantled or confiscated by the Israeli occupying forces, displacing 404 Palestinians, including 219 children. As was stated by the United Nations Coordinator for Humanitarian and Development Activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory: "International law is clear — Palestinians in the West Bank have the right to adequate housing and the right to receive humanitarian assistance ... As the occupying power, Israel is obliged to respect these rights."

Last, we must bring to your attention the latest example of the constant Israeli incitement against the Palestinian people, which not only makes blatantly clear Israel's true feelings about the Palestinian people it holds captive, but also provides a terrifying insight into its dangerous intentions. On Tuesday, 23 February 2016, Israel's Education Minister, Naftali Benett, who is notoriously known for his hateful, racist rhetoric and incitement against Palestinians, was quoted in the media as stating: "We have to bury Palestinian anti-occupation fighters in secret cemeteries and knock down all the homes in their native villages ... Let's roll into every single home and rake through every single corner. The anti-occupation fighter must bear in mind that all of those around him are under threat."

This outrageous type of incitement must be condemned and stopped. It is clear that the occupying Power plans on continuing, as it has unsuccessfully tried to do over the course of nearly five decades of occupation, to crush any type of resistance against this illegal, belligerent occupation, irrespective of the fact that the Palestinian people have the right to resist occupation under international law, as well as the right to peaceful assembly, as enshrined in human rights law, and the right to demand their inalienable rights, including to self-determination and freedom, as recognized by the overwhelming majority of countries worldwide.

Given the above-mentioned realities of Israel's violations, we continue to call on the international community, including the Security Council, which has the primary Charter duty for the maintenance of international peace and security, to uphold its responsibilities and take immediate action to end all of Israel's violations and incitement against the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. Israel cannot be permitted to act as a State above the law and must be compelled to comply with all of its obligations under international law, including humanitarian law and human rights law, and to finally end its illegal occupation. For as long as the Palestinian people are left without protection and without the fulfilment of their inalienable rights and legitimate national aspirations, and as long as the international community does not act, Israeli impunity will continue and, as our letters week after week prove, this will result in the loss of more innocent civilian lives, along with the loss of the prospects for peace.

The present letter is in follow-up to our 575 previous letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 18 February 2016 (A/ES-10/712-S/2016/158), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the

occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations

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Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Seventy-first year

Identical letters dated 4 March 2016 from the Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

Once again, we are compelled to draw attention to the systematic violations of international law, including humanitarian law and human rights law, that are being perpetrated against the Palestinian people by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. The failure of the international community, particularly the United Nations Security Council, to seriously and effectively address these violations to end the suffering of the Palestinian people and end Israel's impunity and hold it accountable for the crimes of its military occupation has undoubtedly emboldened the occupying Power, as reflected in its intensifying violations and illegal policies that we continue to document and bring before the international community.

Indisputably, Palestinian children, who constitute nearly half of the Palestinian population in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, are bearing an immense impact from Israel's illegal policies and practices. Children continue to be shot and killed, many extrajudicially killed, by Israeli occupying forces. Hundreds of those not killed by Israel's arsenal of lethal weapons have been severely, and many permanently, maimed, while others are made homeless through Israel's continued practice of home demolitions, in a clear case of collective punishment, which is illegal under international law, in particular Article 33 of the Fourth Geneva Convention (1949). Even their right to education is severely obstructed as schools, many funded by the international community, are demolished or students are prevented from attending schools because of closures or harassment and violent attacks by Israeli terrorist settlers. It is not possible to list the violations of international law committed by the occupying Power against our children, who have spent every living moment of their young lives under occupation.

Just this past week, four more Palestinian children were killed by Israeli occupying forces, including two boys, age 17, who were shot and killed on 2 March

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2016, in the West Bank city of Nablus. In addition to the killing of these two boys, many have been attacked and injured by Israeli occupying forces and terrorist settlers. We call again on the international community to compel Israel, the occupying Power, to end its brutality and crimes against Palestinian children and call for an end to all of its policies and practices that especially place Palestinian children in harm's way.

The casualties among the entire Palestinian population in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, have continued to mount with no end in sight as Israel persists with its aggression with complete and utter impunity. It is in this connection that we report that the Palestinian Ministry of Health has documented that, since the beginning of October 2015, the Israeli occupying forces have now killed at least 185 Palestinians, including 41 children and 8 women, and have injured more than 15,200 Palestinians, many of whom will have to live the rest of their lives with long-term and irreparable trauma, as well as permanent disabilities.

Below are just some of the innumerable crimes perpetrated by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in the period since our last letter to you:

25 February 2016:

- A Palestinian child, Suhayb Saqir, age 5, was killed and his brother Musab, age 6, was seriously injured after unexploded Israeli ordnance detonated in the Jabaliya area of the northern Gaza Strip.

26 February 2016:

- A Palestinian boy, Mahmoud Mohammed Ali Sha'lan, age 17 and from the village of Deir Dibwan, was shot dead by Israeli occupying forces near the illegal settlement of "Beit El", north of Ramallah. The boy, who is also an American citizen, was shot with several rounds of live ammunition and left to bleed to death, a cruel fate many young Palestinians have suffered in such brutal attacks by occupying forces.

27 February 2016:

- Israeli navy boats opened fire on Palestinian fishermen's boats, which were sailing within the Israeli-imposed 6-nautical-mile fishing zone offshore from the north-west of Gaza City.
- Israeli occupying forces opened fire at Palestinian farmers and homes along the Gaza border.
- A group of illegal settlers rampaged the agricultural lands of Yusuf village near Salfit, under the protection of occupying forces who fired rubber-coated steel bullets and tear gas grenades towards Palestinians who were attempting to prevent the attack by settlers.

28 February 2016:

- Israeli occupying forces detained at least 10 Palestinians, including 2 brothers, both children, from across the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.
- Israeli navy boats and occupying forces opened fire on Palestinian fishermen and farmers offshore from the northern Gaza Strip.

- Israeli settlers resumed their provocative visits to Al-Aqsa Mosque compound in Occupied East Jerusalem, provoking tension with Muslim worshippers.
- Occupying forces shot and seriously injured a Palestinian child, Yazan Omar Salah (age 16), with a live bullet to his chest, and a medical doctor, Hisham Atwan (age 45), in the village of Al-Khader, south of Bethlehem.
- A Palestinian farmer attempting to reach his farm in Gaza was injured when occupying forces opened fire at him.

29 February 2016:

- Israeli occupying forces detained 27 Palestinians, including a 2-year-old toddler, during predawn raids in the West Bank.
- Occupying forces demolished residential structures and tents sheltering Palestinian Bedouin families in the village of Al-Farisiya, in northern Jordan Valley.
- Israeli naval boats attacked Palestinian fishermen sailing within the Israeli-imposed 6-nautical-mile fishing zone offshore from Gaza.
- Occupying forces attacked and detained nine Palestinian fishermen on fishing boats offshore from Gaza.
- Occupying forces shot and injured a Palestinian east of Beit Hanoun in the northern Gaza Strip.

1 March 2016:

- In a violent predawn raid, Israeli occupying forces entered Qalandia refugee camp to the north of East Jerusalem and opened fire at Palestinian civilians, killing Iyad Omar Sajdyeh (age 22) by sniper fire and injuring 10 others, including a child.
- Occupying forces detained 16 Palestinians, including a minor, from the West Bank.
- A group of terrorist settlers attacked and injured Ayman bin Shamseh near the town of Surif to the south of Nablus. Settlers also brutally attacked and injured Mahmoud Suleiman Awad Rizeq from the Askar refugee camp in Nablus.
- Occupying forces attacked and opened live fire on Palestinian fishermen offshore from Gaza, as well as farmers tending to their land in Gaza.
- Occupying forces demolished the family house of Yousef Abed Simrin, citing "unlicensed building" as a pretext. Yousef and his wife have seven children, ranging from 3 to 20, and are now displaced and homeless.
- Occupying forces brutally assaulted a Palestinian youth, Allam Shaer, after raiding his house in the town of Arraba, south-west of Jenin.

2 March 2016:

- Israeli occupying forces continued the widespread demolition of Palestinian properties. This included the demolition of dozens of structures in the village of Khirbet Tana, north-east of Nablus, including houses, barns and the village's sole school, which is a building consisting of movable caravans

donated by a European organization. The school was attended by 26 local children from grade 1 to grade 4.

- Occupying forces served demolition orders to Palestinian families in Khallet al-Mayyeh, a small village south of Al-Khalil, under the pretext of "construction without an Israeli permit".
- Occupying forces detained 30 Palestinians and summoned 5 others from the West Bank.
- Occupying forces demolished the house of Khalil Ali, in Shuwekeh, on the outskirts of the city of Tulkarm in the West Bank, under the pretext of "construction without an Israeli permit".
- Two Palestinian teenagers, Labib Khaldoon Anwar Azzam (age 17) and Mohammed Hisham Ali Zaghlawan (age 17), were killed by occupying forces near the illegal settlement of "Eli" south of Nablus.

In addition to the above, we must highlight that Palestinian children continue to be arrested and detained by Israeli occupying forces on a near-daily basis and are being subjected to harsh and cruel treatment, including beatings, forced interrogations and even torture, causing physical and psychological trauma to these innocent children and to their families. Just one example of this took place on Tuesday, 1 March 2016, when Israeli occupying forces dressed in full army gear with only their eyes uncovered broke into a Palestinian home in the Occupied East Jerusalem neighbourhood of Issawiya at 2.00 in the morning. The occupying forces violently forced themselves into the home to arrest a young boy, age 16, for alleged stone throwing. The soldiers forcibly woke the entire family up in a state of fear and proceeded to throw the 16-year-old boy to the ground, leaving him handcuffed for three hours. His father and mother, who were trying to prevent the occupying forces from taking their young son, were hit and also shoved to the floor, and the 2-year-old little brother even suffered from pepper spray to his eyes before he too was taken with the parents into captivity and detained for nearly four hours.

On this same topic, it should be noted that on Wednesday, 2 March 2016, a Palestinian boy, Jihad al-Jaabari, age 14, from Jerusalem was sentenced by the occupying Power to 18 months in prison for allegedly throwing stones. The occupying Power, with its scare tactics and harsh and unjustified sentencing of young children, along with its sheer brutality against Palestinian children, must be firmly condemned for such illegal and cruel treatment of children in violation of all international and moral norms. There are currently approximately 450 Palestinian children detained in Israeli jails. The Convention on the Rights of the Child and other international legal standards are clear when it comes to the issue of imprisonment and detentions of children in that the arrest, detention and imprisonment of a child should only be used as a measure of last resort and for the shortest period of time, not in the systematic, gross manner used by Israel against Palestinian children under this belligerent, illegal military occupation that has been torturing and brutalizing Palestinians for nearly a half century, scarring generation after generation.

In this regard and in the context of the overall issue of detentions and imprisonment of Palestinians by the occupying forces, we draw your attention to the fact that in February 2016 alone at least 616 Palestinians, including 140 children and 18 women, were arrested or detained by the occupying Power. That adds to the

over 4,120 Palestinians that have been detained by Israeli occupying forces in these few months since the onset of this latest Israeli aggression in early October 2015. We reiterate our calls for the release of all Palestinian children in Israeli captivity, in addition to our ongoing calls for the release of all Palestinian prisoners and detainees and for full respect for their human rights. Human rights cannot be suspended in situations of occupation, as international law makes abundantly clear.

Given the above-mentioned realities of Israel's violations and crimes, we continue to call on the international community, including the Security Council, which has the primary Charter duty for the maintenance of international peace and security, to uphold its responsibilities and take immediate action to end all of Israel's violations and crimes against the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. Israel cannot continue to be permitted to act as a State above the law and must be compelled to comply with all of its obligations under international law, including humanitarian law and human rights law, and to finally end its illegal occupation. Until this happens, left unprotected and under occupation, the Palestinian people living under Israel's occupation will continue to suffer immensely, and the injustice felt by the Palestinian population will only intensify, deepening enmity and taking both Palestinians and Israelis farther and farther away from peace.

This letter is in follow-up to our 576 previous letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 26 February 2016 (A/ES-10/713-S/2016/190), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Riyad **Mansour**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of the State of Palestine
to the United Nations

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Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Seventy-first year

Identical letters dated 10 March 2016 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Observer Mission of the State of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

I am compelled to draw your attention to the very unstable situation in Occupied Palestine, including East Jerusalem, due to the ongoing breaches of international law, including humanitarian and human rights law, by Israel, the occupying Power. The persistence and intensity of such illegal actions seem to leave little doubt that Israel has interpreted the international community's continued inaction as a signal that it can continue with its illegal occupation and crimes against the Palestinian people without consequence.

One of the occupying Power's latest egregious crimes occurred at the so-called "Gush Etzion Junction", the entrance to the illegal settlement of "Gush Etzion" in the occupied West Bank. On 4 March 2016, as Amani Husni Sabatin, age 34, was driving in her car, Israeli occupying forces shot and killed her. In what has become the standard response, the occupying Power stated that Amani was an "imminent threat" and therefore they riddled her car with bullets. As on many other occasions, the occupying forces who executed Amani alleged that "a knife was found" in her car.

Amani was a married mother of four children, with her eldest being 14 years of age. One is thus compelled to ask: did Amani actually leave home that day with the inexplicable intention of never seeing her children again and leaving them motherless, or is this horrific incident just another example of the occupying Power fabricating a story in order to literally get away with murder? As more than 192 Palestinians have been killed, including 43 children and 9 women, since October 2015, we believe it is overdue for the international community to question such Israeli allegations clearly aimed at "justifying" the trigger-happy execution-style killings of Palestinian civilians, including children, without any serious review or investigations into these allegations. While there have been some individual acts of violence by Palestinians against occupying forces or illegal settlers on occupied

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land, all allegations cannot be accepted as fact just because the occupying Power keeps repeating such allegations and branding an entire people as "attackers" or as "terrorists".

It is important to note that, even back in October 2015, when the occupying Power first unleashed its recent aggression against the Palestinian people, Amnesty International called on Israel to stop its "unlawful" killings, saying that the group's investigations had found "at least four cases where Palestinians were deliberately shot dead when they posed no imminent threat". In a press release on 27 October 2015, Amnesty International stated that "there is mounting evidence that, as tensions have risen dramatically, in some cases Israeli forces appear to have ripped up the rulebook and resorted to extreme and unlawful measures" and that "we are increasingly seeing Israeli forces recklessly flouting international standards by shooting to kill in situations where it is completely unjustified".

One of the examples that Amnesty International has documented is the killing on 26 October 2015 of Sa'ad Mohammed Youssef al-Atrash, age 19, in the Old City of Al-Khalil, who was killed as he attempted to retrieve an ID card at the request of an Israeli soldier. The occupying Power labelled the incident an "attempted stabbing", but an eyewitness watching the events unfold from her balcony said that Mr. Al-Atrash had posed no threat when he was shot. One of the Israeli soldiers had asked him for ID and, as he reached into his pocket to grab his card, another Israeli soldier behind him shot him in his right side, she told Amnesty. The eyewitness said that he was shot six or seven times and bled profusely as he lay on the ground for about 40 minutes afterwards, while occupying forces failed to provide medical treatment. She also reported seeing Israeli occupying forces bring a knife and place it in the dying man's hand. The eyewitness went on to state that "then they put him on a stretcher and pushed him towards an ambulance but didn't put him in. By this time he looked extremely yellow and I thought that he was dead at that point. He remained in front of the ambulance for another 20 minutes before he was put inside it and taken away".

Amnesty International also documented the killing of Fadi Alloun, age 19, on 4 October 2015, from Issawiyya in Occupied East Jerusalem, who was shot and killed by so-called Israeli occupying forces in another apparent extrajudicial execution. The occupying Power said that he "had a knife in his hand when he was shot". However, video of the incident shows him instead being chased by a group of Israeli extremists before occupying forces arrived at the scene and shot him from some metres away, without attempting to arrest him. Israeli extremists cheered as his lifeless body lay on the street.

These are just two examples of killings in cold blood by Israeli occupying forces. Amnesty International correctly stated that "unfortunately, Israel's investigation systems have long served to perpetuate impunity for unlawful killings of Palestinians by Israeli military and police forces". It went on to state that "wilful killings of Palestinians in the Occupied Palestinian Territories are grave breaches of the Fourth Geneva Convention, over which all States can exercise universal jurisdiction". Since it is well established that, in over 90 per cent of cases, the occupying Power does not convict the perpetrators of such crimes, we call on the international community to act in accordance with international humanitarian law to hold Israel accountable for all such illegal actions against the Palestinian civilian

population under its occupation. As proven throughout history, accountability is surely a deterrent to continued perpetration of such crimes.

The incidents mentioned above are only a few of the countless violations being committed daily by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people. Indisputably, Israel's belligerent military occupation is driven and sustained only by such illegal policies and practices, which affect every single Palestinian child, woman and man living under occupation, whether it be in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, or in the Gaza Strip, where 1.8 million Palestinians continue to live in the world's largest prison, suffering massive collective punishment tantamount to a war crime.

It is in this connection that we wish to highlight the recent remarks made by Robert Piper, United Nations Deputy Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator for the Occupied Palestinian Territory. On 9 March 2016, at the launch of the Humanitarian Response Plan for 2016, he stressed that 1.6 million Palestinians in the Occupied Palestinian Territory are in need of food assistance, about 1 million of them in Gaza alone, a shocking figure in the context of this illegal half-century occupation and entirely man-made crisis. Among other regrettable facts, he also highlighted that around 90,000 people are still internally displaced from the 2014 war against Gaza and in need of major assistance. Mr. Piper also rightly clarified that "Israel's occupation is the main driver of humanitarian needs", and that "the fastest way to conclude the humanitarian operation in Palestine is to end the occupation". This fact should be heard loud and clear and must remain a top priority for the international community to finally achieve, for humanitarian assistance can never be a substitute for the fulfilment of inalienable rights and a viable and just solution to the question of Palestine as a whole.

Before concluding, I wish to draw attention to some of the most recent crimes perpetrated by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, in the period since our last letter to you:

4 March 2016:

- Israeli occupying forces shot dead Amani Husni Sabatin (age 34), a Palestinian mother of four children, the eldest of whom is a 14-year-old daughter, near the illegal "Gush Etzion" settlement, south of Bethlehem.

5 March 2016:

- Israeli occupying forces targeted with gunfire a group of Palestinian farmers as they attempted to enter their agricultural land in the Al-Zaytoun neighbourhood, south-east of Gaza City.
- Occupying forces detained two Palestinians, including a child, in the Bethlehem area, and summoned five others for interrogation.

6 March 2016:

- A Palestinian youth was shot and injured with a rubber-coated steel bullet by Israeli occupying forces in the town of Al-Khader, to the south of Bethlehem.
- Occupying forces detained seven Palestinians from across the West Bank and summoned eight others for interrogation.

7 March 2016:

- Israeli occupying forces detained 20 Palestinians, including four children, during predawn raids in the West Bank.
- Occupying forces demolished a Palestinian-owned animal barn near the town of Halhoul, north of Al-Khalil, under the pretext of "construction without a permit".
- Occupying forces shot and injured a Palestinian man east of Al-Bureij refugee camp in Gaza.

8 March 2016:

- Israeli settlers razed large tracts of Palestinian land near the village of Kisan, east of Bethlehem.
- Israeli occupying forces shot and killed a Palestinian woman, Fadwa Ahmad Abu Teir (age 51), in the Old City area in Occupied East Jerusalem.
- Occupying forces detained 19 Palestinians, including four children, and summoned two others from across the West Bank.
- Occupying forces destroyed the interior walls of the family house of Ibrahim Skafi, who was killed by Israeli occupying forces in November 2015 in Al-Khalil.
- Occupying forces kidnapped a Palestinian and seized a vehicle near Al-Khalil.
- Fouad Abu Rajab al-Tamimi (age 21) was shot and killed by Israeli occupying forces near Salah al-Din Street in Occupied East Jerusalem.

9 March 2016:

- Israeli occupying forces shot and killed Abdel Malak Abu Kharoub (age 19) and Mohammed Jamal al-Kalouti (age 21) outside the New Gate in Jerusalem and critically injured Imad Abu Ali (age 57), a resident of Jerusalem's Old City.
- Occupying forces shot and killed a Palestinian child, Sami Amer (age 16), near the village of Al-Zawiya in Salfit.
- Occupying forces detained 23 Palestinians in overnight and predawn raids across the West Bank.

10 March 2016:

- Israeli occupying forces detained 33 Palestinians across the West Bank, mostly in Qalqilya, Nablus and Al-Khalil.

The incidents cited above offer just a glimpse of the vast number of unjust, unlawful actions being perpetrated daily against the Palestinian people by Israel, the occupying Power. The brutality being suffered by our people at the hands of this illegal occupation is intensifying tensions and hatred and making peace ever more elusive. We call on the international community to heed not only the calls by the Palestinian side but also the calls by others, including the appeal made by Mr. Piper that "our first priority must be about protection. Palestinians living under occupation need protection." Failing this, the occupying Power will continue to believe that it can act above the law, persisting with its illegal policies and practices

and accelerating the downward spiral that this illegal, destructive occupation has put both peoples on, with grave consequences for the prospects for Palestinian-Israeli peace and coexistence and for regional stability. We thus again call on the international community, particularly the Security Council, to mobilize the necessary political will to act to uphold its responsibilities in accordance with international law and the numerous relevant United Nations resolutions and to fulfil its unkept promises to the Palestinian people to bring an end to Israel's occupation and realize the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including to freedom and independence in their State of Palestine, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

This letter is in follow-up to our 577 previous letters regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, which constitutes the territory of the State of Palestine. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 4 March 2016 (A/ES-10/714-S/2016/212), constitute a basic record of the crimes being committed by Israel, the occupying Power, against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, acts of State terrorism and systematic human rights violations being committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators be brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Feda **Abdelhady-Nasser**
Chargé d'affaires, a.i.